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Plague in Burma during August.—An official note says there was a decrease of plague in Burma during the month of August, the figures showing 551 cases and 499 deaths, as compared with 721 cases and 662 deaths in July. The decrease was most marked in Rangoon, where there were 128 deaths, as compared with 268 in July. A decrease also occurred in Bassein, Myaungmya, Henzada, and Amherst districts. In Thawawaddy, Maubin, Toungoo, and Thaton districts plague remained almost stationary. In Lower Burma the only large increase occurred in the Pegu district, where figures rose from 20 cases and 19 deaths in July to 55 cases and 53 deaths in August. Exclusive of Rangoon, plague again occurred in 11 districts in Lower Burma during the month.

The issue of plague prophylactic.—Rules for the issue of plague prophylactic from the Bombay bacteriological laboratory have been approved and published by the government. It is laid down that applications from practitioners who have already been once supplied on the recommendation of civil or medical authorities will be complied with at once. Applications from medical practitioners who have not been supplied must be sent through the chief civil or medical officer of the place where they reside. In the event of the application being supported it will be complied with. Subsequent applications may be submitted direct to the laboratory. Applications from firms of chemists or from private individuals can not be accepted, but the resident physician of a firm of chemists will be treated as a medical practitioner on the distinct understanding that the prophylactic be used by him alone. Concerning places outside of India, persons not in the service of the British-India government will not be supplied unless the application is supported by the British consul.

Vital statistics of Calcutta.—The total number of deaths registered during the week ended August 31, 1907, was 459, against 425 and 405 in the two preceding weeks, and higher than the corresponding week of last year by 68. There were 28 deaths from cholera, against 25 and 27 in the two preceding weeks. The number is higher than the average of the past quinquennium by 16. There were 3 deaths from plague, against 7 and 4 in the two preceding weeks. There were 2 deaths from smallpox during the week, against none in the previous week. The general death rate of the week was 28 per mille per annum, against 24.5, the mean of the last five years.

JAPAN.

Report from Yokohama—Inspection and fumigation of vessels—Cholera in Yokohama—Cholera abating in the southern kens.

Passed Assistant Surgeon Cumming reports September 25:

Week ended September 21. Bills of health issued to 5 steamships having an aggregate personnel of 523 crew and 795 passengers. The steamship *Sikh*, hence to New York via oriental ports, and the *Yawata Maru*, hence for Australia via Manila were fumigated with sulphur dioxide for the purpose of destroying vermin.

Despite strenuous efforts on the part of the authorities cholera has appeared here. On the 23d instant there were 2 cases, each in a sendo (boatman) upon cargo sampans in the harbor, and yesterday

there were 2 more cases, one the wife of the sendo of a boat lying in the creek near the railroad station, and the other an attendant in a public bath house. These make a total of 7 cases in and near this city during the past month.

The epidemic in the southern kens is abating, and the official returns up to September 23 show a total of 1,487 cases, most of which were in Fukuoka, Yamaguchi, and Hyogo kens (Moji, Shimonoseki, Kobe).

Emigrants recommended for rejection.

Number of emigrants per steamship *Siberia* recommended September 11 for rejection: For Honolulu, 11; for San Francisco, 1. Advised to wait, 18. Per steamship *Tango Maru* September 21: For Seattle, 3. Advised to wait, 7. Per steamship *Manchuria* September 25: For Honolulu, 5. Advised to wait, 7. Of these rejections all were for trachoma.

Reports from Kobe—Special quarantine restrictions put in force on account of cholera—Inspection of vessels—Plague at Osaka—Emigrant inspection—Cholera diminishing at Moji.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Ransom reports, September 13 and 16:

In view of the fact that Asiatic cholera has shown a tendency to increase at this port within the last few days and that the disease seems now to have gained a foothold in the cities of Hiogo, Kobe, and Osaka, I have deemed it necessary to put into operation the special restrictions, provided in the Quarantine Laws and Regulations, for vessels, crews, cargo, and passengers sailing from ports infected with cholera, to take effect from and after this date.

Week ended September 14. One original and 3 supplemental bills of health granted to 4 steamships, with an aggregate personnel of 1,217. Four vessels, 618 members of crews, and 1 cabin and 500 steerage passengers inspected, and 48 members of crews and 174 steerage passengers bathed and their effects disinfected with steam; 328 pieces of baggage were disinfected; manifests were viséed for 14,608 pieces of freight.

Emigrants examined as follows: For San Francisco and Honolulu, steamship *Siberia*, 70 passed, 118 recommended for rejection; steamship *China*, 105 passed, 56 recommended for rejection.

Sixty-seven cases of cholera, with 26 deaths, were reported in the city of Kobe during the week.

I have suggested that supplies for ships en route to the United States and Philippines, calling at this port, be limited to the minimum. The water supply of the city seems to be good, but the method of transferring it to vessels is very poor and liable to infection. All shipping orders for freight will be required to be viséed before the goods are put on board, and the articles prohibited by the regulations or others considered dangerous will not be passed. Emigrants will be examined five days before departure and held under observation until they sail. Every effort will be made to keep them separated from dangerous articles of food and from people who have not been disinfected.

The site selected by the emigration agents is within a minute's walk of the disinfecting station, and is located in a large airy